

**Amendments to the Claims**

1. – 8. (canceled).

9. (currently amended) A method for the treatment of diabetic ischemic disease in a subject, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a ~~nucleic acid encoding~~ hepatocyte growth factor gene to the muscle of an ischemic site, wherein at least 50 µg of the hepatocyte growth factor gene is administered to the subject once every few weeks, thereby treating the diabetic ischemic disease, ~~wherein the nucleic acid encoding the hepatocyte growth factor is administered to the subject once every few weeks.~~

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the diabetic ischemic disease is selected from the group consisting of diabetic lower limb ischemic disease, diabetic ischemic neuropathy and diabetic ischemic myocardial infarction.

12. (original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the diabetic ischemic disease is diabetic lower limb ischemic disease.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the ~~nucleic acid encoding the~~ hepatocyte growth factor gene is in the form of a Sendai virus (HVJ)-liposome.

15. – 22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A method for the treatment of diabetic ischemic disease in a subject, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a ~~nucleic acid encoding~~ hepatocyte growth factor gene to the muscle of an ischemic site, wherein at least 50 µg of the hepatocyte growth factor gene is administered to the subject once every few days, thereby

treating the diabetic ischemic disease, ~~wherein the nucleic acid encoding the hepatocyte growth factor is administered to the subject once every few days.~~

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the diabetic ischemic disease is selected from the group consisting of diabetic lower limb ischemic disease, diabetic ischemic neuropathy and diabetic ischemic myocardial infarction.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the diabetic ischemic disease is diabetic lower limb ischemic disease.

26. (currently amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the ~~nucleic acid encoding the hepatocyte growth factor~~ gene is in the form of a Sendai virus (HVJ)-liposome.

27. – 43. (canceled)

44. (currently amended). A method for the treatment of diabetic ischemic disease in a subject, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a ~~nucleic acid encoding hepatocyte growth factor~~ gene to the muscle of an ischemic site, wherein at least 50 µg of the ~~nucleic acid encoding the hepatocyte growth factor~~ gene is administered to the subject, thereby treating the diabetic ischemic disease.

45. (previously presented) The method according to claim 44, wherein the diabetic ischemic disease is selected from the group consisting of diabetic lower limb ischemic disease, diabetic ischemic neuropathy and diabetic ischemic myocardial infarction.

46. (previously presented) The method according to claim 45, wherein the diabetic ischemic disease is diabetic lower limb ischemic disease.

47. (currently amended) The method according to claim 45, wherein the ~~nucleic acid encoding the hepatocyte growth factor~~ gene is in the form of a Sendai virus (HVJ)-liposome.

48. (new) The method according to claim 9, wherein about 50  $\mu$ g to about 5 mg the hepatocyte growth factor gene is administered to the subject, thereby treating the diabetic ischemic disease.

49. (new) The method according to claim 23, wherein about 50  $\mu$ g to about 5 mg the hepatocyte growth factor gene is administered to the subject, thereby treating the diabetic ischemic disease.

50. (new) The method according to claim 44, wherein about 50  $\mu$ g to about 5 mg the hepatocyte growth factor gene is administered to the subject, thereby treating the diabetic ischemic disease.